



# Hon. Doris O. Matsui

## Member of Congress

*Doris O. Matsui*

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Serving California's 5th District

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### **REPUBLICAN BUDGET NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP, IGNORE COUNTRY'S PRIORITIES**

*Washington, DC* – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) questioned Congressional Republicans and the White House touting a reduced budget deficit of *only* \$333 billion for 2005, while the Bush budget starves important programs vital to Sacramento. The well-hyped GOP numbers are misleading and their claims of fiscal responsibility are undercut by the long-term deficit projections. .

"I understand that the President's budget is affected by the unexpected – terrorism and war – but his budget is also about choices – favoring tax cuts for the wealthiest among us, while slashing vital programs," Matsui said. "The Bush Administration's priorities are indefensible. They burden our children and grandchildren with massive debt while ignoring the pressing challenges of health care, affordable housing and education."

Two weeks after the Bush administration revealed that veterans' health care faced a funding shortfall of over \$1 billion; it is touting the success of its budget – a budget that turned a \$5.6 trillion dollar surplus into a \$3.8 trillion deficit. Unfortunately, that same budget provides insufficient funding for Community Development Block Grants, nurse training, No Child Left Behind and Amtrak.

While shortchanging these key programs, the Bush budget systematically ignores long terms costs including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the money required to repair the alternative minimum tax. An honest assessment of Bush's "deficit reduction" program shows a growing debt with annual budget deficits of \$600 billion by 2015.

Continued Matsui, "Instead of patting themselves on the back for short term revenue increases, Republicans need to take a closer look and admit that their fiscal irresponsibility will span generations and they have still not addressed the issues that matter most to Americans.

"It is the duty of responsible lawmakers to leave the next generation with greater opportunities and resources than we were given. Accomplishing this goal requires honest budgeting and a major shift in our priorities and I will continue to fight to make that happen."

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